1982 FIRST COMICS 1987
FIFTH
JULY 1988
8
$1.75
EVANGELINE
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WHO ARE THESE GUYS, ANYWAY?

It is the 22nd century, and many things have changed... humans have colonized the stars and made great technological advances. And many things remain the same... they still persecute each other for their beliefs. Enter **Evangeline**: executioner and saviour. A woman with a dark past and one unswerving allegiance.

She is an expert at hand-to-hand combat, demolitions and electronics, and is proficient with a wide variety of weapons — but she has a special affinity for the old-fashioned bow and arrow. Often introduced as a countess, only a few friends know what she truly is. Among them are **Cardinal Szn**, the Vatican head of intelligence who recruited her and assigns her missions; **Brian Hager** who helped train her; and **Jonny Six**, a thief who sees Evangeline as more than a consummate professional.

What is Evangeline? She is an avenger and protector of those persecuted for their beliefs, or persecuted in the name of the new religion — science.

Who is Evangeline? She's a nun — a very *dangerous* nun.

LAST ISSUE: When key Church associates started dying, the trail led to the orbiting resort Wonderstar. The computer, **Joseph**, a bona fide artificial intelligence still following its original instructions, was reprogramming humans into electronic puppets. Evangeline released Joseph's module into space and blew it up. Now she's in for a little R&R...

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EVANGELINE™ Vol. 2, No. 8, July 1988. Published by FIRST COMICS, INC., OFFICE OF PUBLICATION: 435 N. LaSalle, Chicago IL 60610. Published bi-monthly.

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Price: $1.75 in the U.S. Subscription rates for twelve issues: $21.00 in the U.S., $23.00 in Canada and $40.00 foreign rate. All payments must be in U.S. funds.

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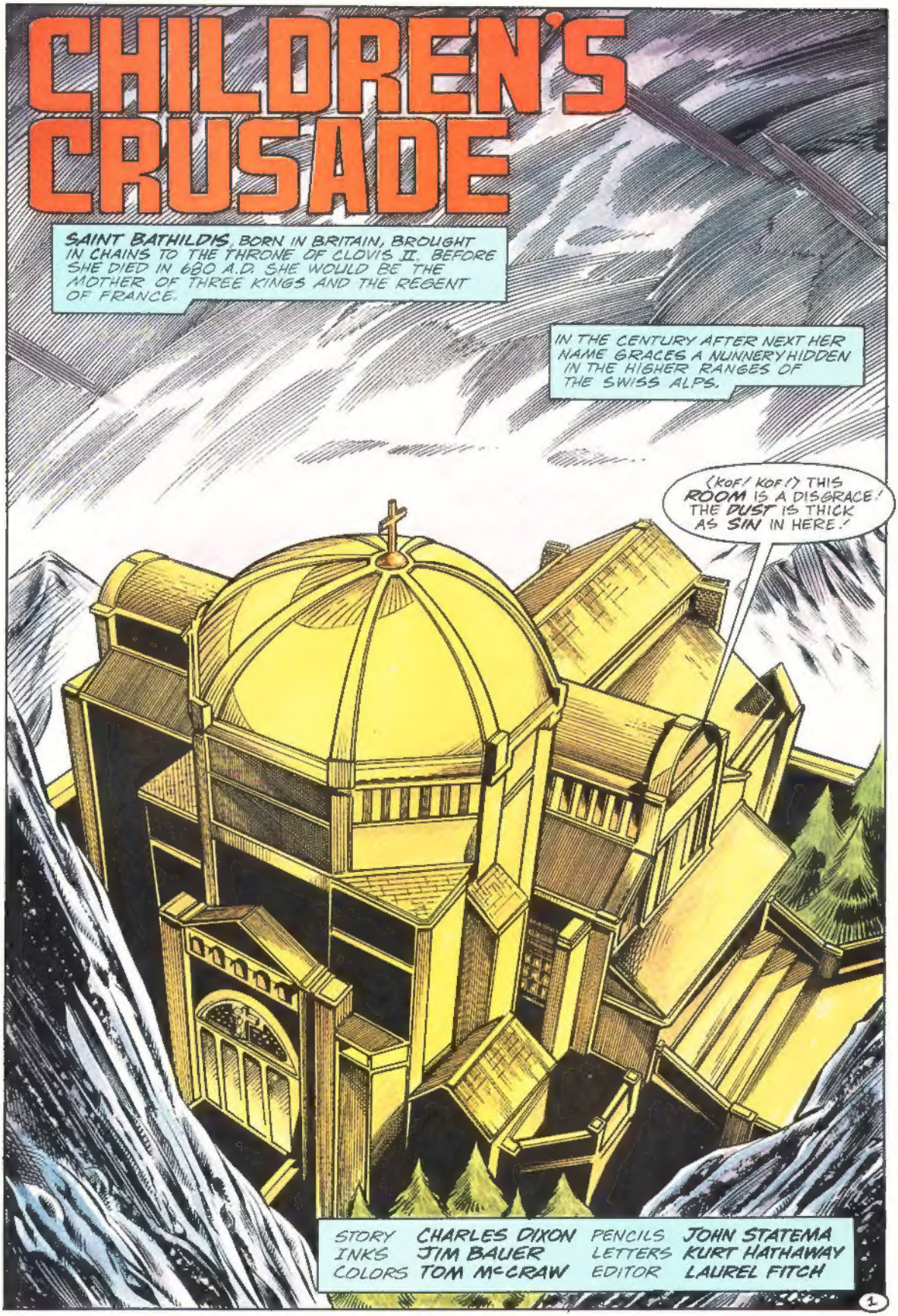
Printed in the U.S.A.
POSTMASTER: Send all address changes to **Evangeline**, c/o First Comics, Inc., 435 N. LaSalle, Chicago, IL 60610.

A FIRST COMICS PUBLISHING PRODUCTION

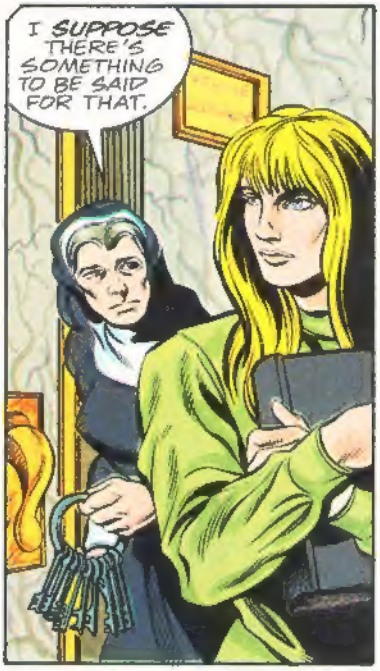

CHILDREN'S CRUSADE
SAINT BATHILDIS, BORN IN BRITAIN, BROUGHT IN CHAINS TO THE THRONE OF CLOVIS II. BEFORE SHE DIED IN 680 A.D. SHE WOULD BE THE MOTHER OF THREE KINGS AND THE REGENT OF FRANCE.
IN THE CENTURY AFTER NEXT HER NAME GRACES A NUNNERY HIDDEN IN THE HIGHER RANGES OF THE SWISS ALPS.
(KOF! KOF!) THIS ROOM IS A DISGRACE! THE DUST IS THICK AS SIN IN HERE!
STORY CHARLES DIXON
PENCILS JOHN STATEMA
INKS JIM BAUER
LETTERS KURT HATHAWAY
COLORS TOM McCRAW
EDITOR LAUREL FITCH
1

YOU KNOW WE HAVE ALL OF THESE BOOKS STORED IN THE DATA MATRIX OF THE CONVENT. YOU COULD JUST KEY THEM UP ON THE MONITOR IN YOUR ROOM INSTEAD OF POKING ABOUT IN ALL THIS FILTH.
HM.

SISTER EVANGELINE! ARE YOU LISTENING TO A WORD I SAY?
YES, SISTER JOANNA.

I UNDERSTAND THAT YOU WERE SENT HERE FOR REST AND CONTEMPLATION, BUT YOU SEEM SO DISTANT AT TIMES!
I AM SORRY, SISTER. I KNOW THAT I'VE BEEN A BOTHER.

IT'S JUST THAT READING FROM A MONITOR ISN'T THE SAME AS HOLDING A BOOK IN MY HANDS. PERHAPS IT'S BECAUSE I ATTENDED A VERY OLD FASHIONED SCHOOL WHERE WE HAD NOTHING BUT THE PRINTED WORD.

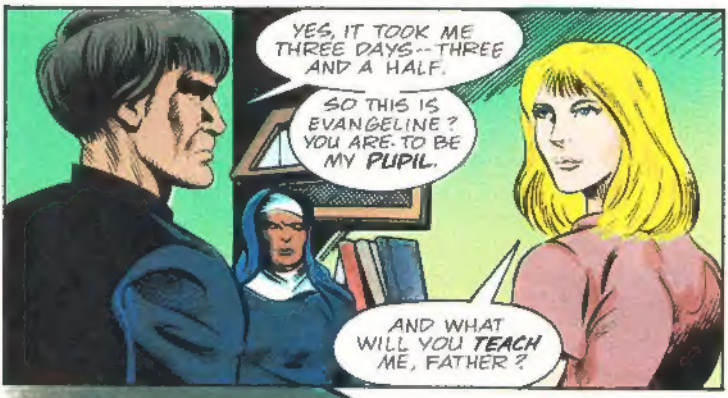

I SUPPOSE THERE'S SOMETHING TO BE SAID FOR THAT.

YOU'RE AN UNUSUAL WOMAN, SISTER.

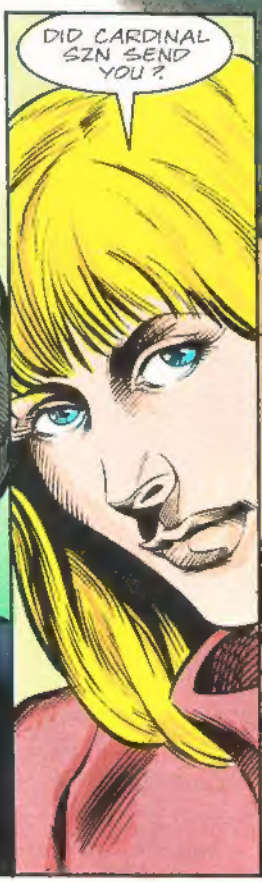
"SO MANY BOOKS. YOU MUST BE QUITE PROUD OF YOURSELF.
"YOU'VE LEARNED MUCH IN THE TIME YOU'VE BEEN WITH US..."
...HERE ONLY FOUR YEARS, AND YET YOU'VE EXHAUSTED OUR LIBRARY. YOU'VE READ EVERY BOOK IN EVERY LANGUAGE.
WOULD YOU LIKE ME TO SEND TO TUNIS FOR SOME MORE BOOKS, EVANGELINE?
COULD YOU, SISTER CLARE? I'VE READ ALL OF THESE TWICE--AND SOME THREE TIMES!
I'M SURE THAT THE CARDINAL WOULD APPROVE.
I FORGOT THAT HE IS A CARDINAL NOW. I ALWAYS THINK OF HIM AS BISHOP SZN. WILL HE BE VISITING AGAIN, SOON?
I'M AFRAID THE CARDINAL WILL BE OCCUPIED WITH OTHER MATTERS. YOU'LL HAVE TO BE SATISFIED WITH MYSELF FOR THE TIME BEING.
3

I'M PHILLIP. I BELIEVE YOU'VE BEEN EXPECTING ME.

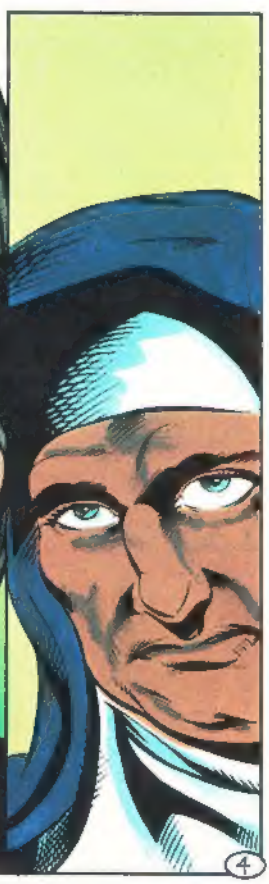
YES, YES--THE JESUIT. WE DIDN'T KNOW WHEN YOU WOULD ARRIVE. I DIDN'T HEAR THE DOGS BARK, HOW DID YOU COME?
I WALKED. FROM BOUGIE.
BOUGIE? BUT THAT'S TWO HUNDRED MILES AWAY ALONG THE COAST.


YES, IT TOOK ME THREE DAYS--THREE AND A HALF.
SO THIS IS EVANGELINE? YOU ARE TO BE MY PUPIL.
AND WHAT WILL YOU TEACH ME, FATHER?

THEOLOGY--AS WELL AIDING YOU IN YOUR PHYSICAL ABILITIES. I HOPE THAT WE WILL GET ALONG. YOU SEEM LIKE AN INTELLIGENT GIRL.

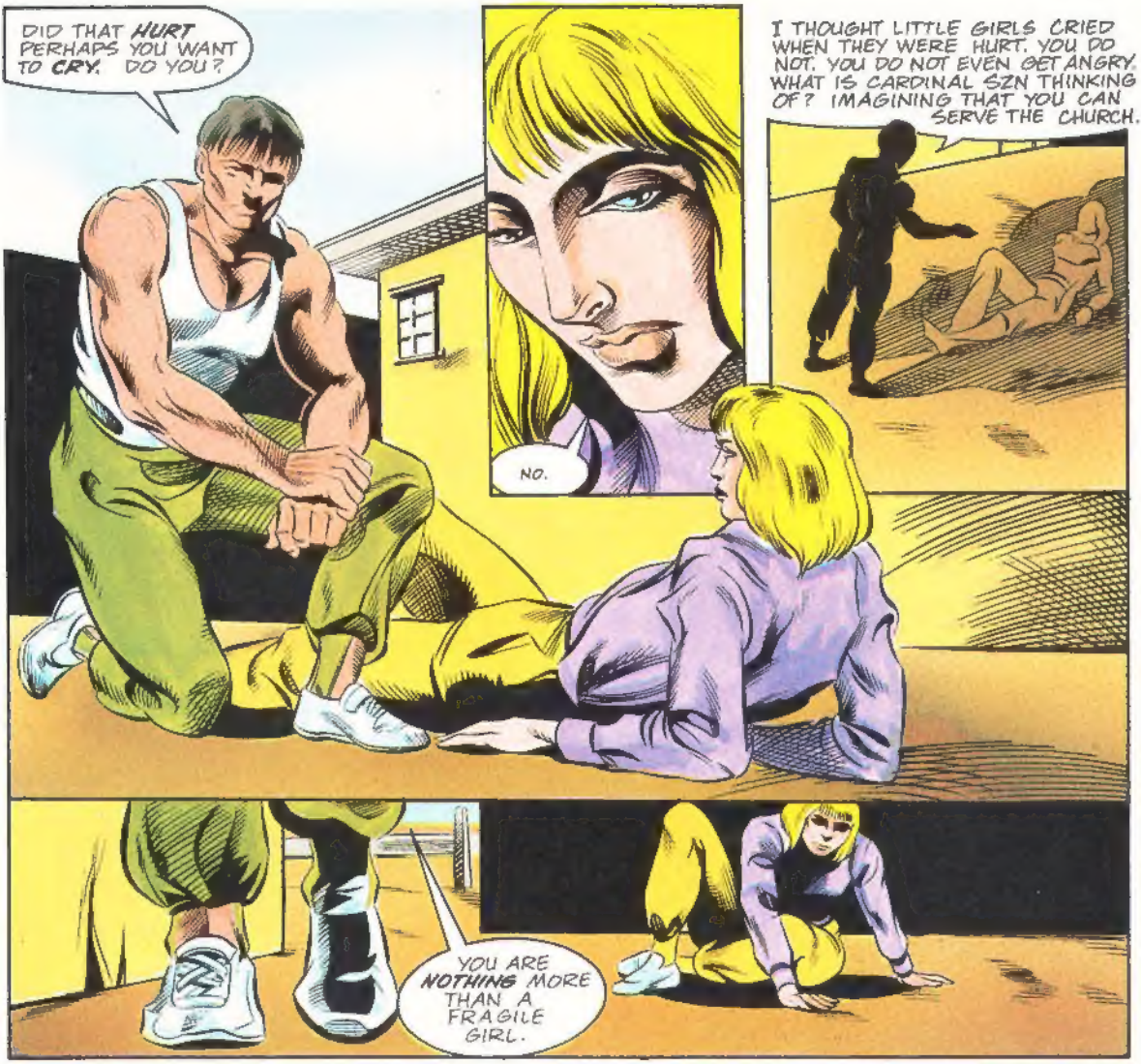

DID CARDINAL SZN SEND YOU?

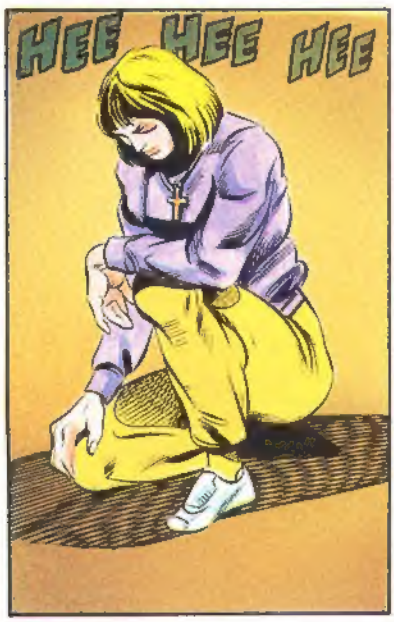
YES, HE DID. I'M HERE TO HELP YOU REALIZE YOUR DESTINY, EVANGELINE--TO FORGE YOU INTO AN INSTRUMENT OF FAITH.



A MISERABLE PIECE OF LANDSCAPE. ONE CAN TELL THE LIGHT OF GOD'S BENEVOLENCE HAS NEVER SHINED HERE.
I CANNOT UNDERSTAND WHY THE ANCIENT ROMANS WERE EVER INTERESTED IN THIS WASTELAND.
BUT THEY DID SETTLE HERE. AND THEY NAMED THE PLACE, AFTER ALL, TUNISIA.
BUT THE CARDINAL CHOSE WELL. THIS PLACE SUITS OUR PURPOSES. FAR FROM PRYING EYES.
FAR FROM VIEW BY THE REST OF THE WORLD.
WHY ARE WE OUT HERE, FATHER? WHAT IS IT YOU WISH ME TO DO?
I WANT YOU TO STRIKE ME.

I-I CANNOT STRIKE A PRIEST.
I ORDER YOU TO.
BUT IT WOULD BE A SIN TO STRIKE YOU.
IT IS A SIN TO DISOBEY ME.
YOU MUST DO AS YOU ARE TOLD. YOU MUST HAVE FAITH--BELIEVE AND OBEY. IT IS THE WHOLE OF YOUR PURPOSE.
NOW. STRIKE ME, EVANGELINE!
STRIKE ME!
SMACK
Oh!
6

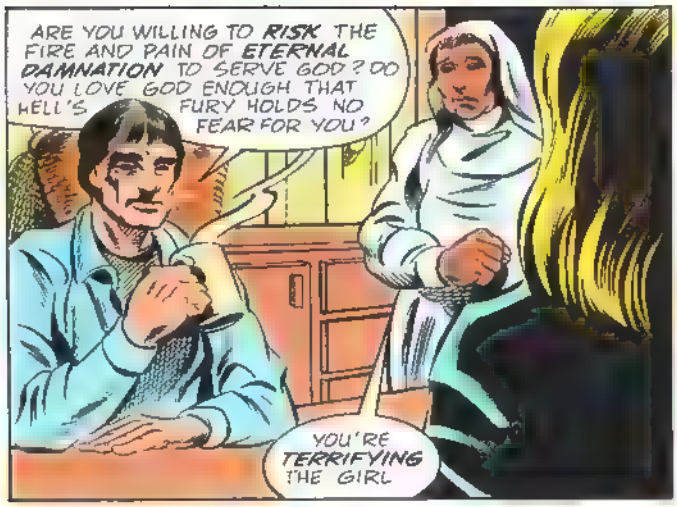

DID THAT HURT. PERHAPS YOU WANT TO CRY. DO YOU?
NO.
I THOUGHT LITTLE GIRLS CRIED WHEN THEY WERE HURT. YOU DO NOT. YOU DO NOT EVEN GET ANGRY. WHAT IS CARDINAL SZN THINKING OF? IMAGINING THAT YOU CAN SERVE THE CHURCH.
YOU ARE NOTHING MORE THAN A FRAGILE GIRL.

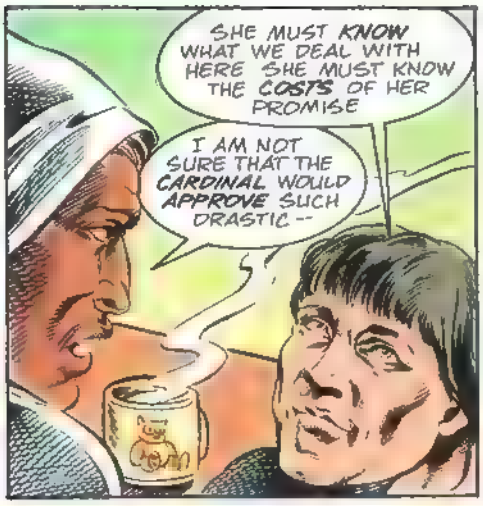

HEE HEE HEE

HEE HEE HEE

HEE HEE HEE

WHAT DO YOU KNOW OF HELL, EVANGELINE?
IT IS A PLACE OF ETERNAL DAMNATION, WHERE SINNERS PAY FOR DEFYING GOD'S LAW.
YES, THAT IS SO. BUT DO YOU UNDERSTAND THE NATURE OF THE ETERNAL TORMENT THOSE SINNERS ENDURE? HAVE YOU CONTEMPLATED WHAT FORM THOSE TORMENTS TAKE?
WHATEVER YOU IMAGINE, LET ME ASSURE YOU THAT THE REALITY IS FAR WORSE. SINNERS WALLOW FOREVER IN PAIN, HUMILIATION, AND DISEASE.
THEIR BODIES RUN WITH SORES -- SWOLLEN WITH PUS AND PARASITES. THEIR ORGANS SWIM IN VILE LIQUIDS THAT LEAK FROM THEIR EYES AND EARS AND MOUTHS. THEIR FLESH IS CONTINUALLY FEASTED UPON BY WORMS.
BUT THAT IS NOT ALL. FOR ALL ETERNITY THEY MUST SUBMIT TO THE VILE LUSTS OF DEMONS. EVERY ORIFICE INVADED BY CREATURES OF SUCH DEMENTED APPETITES THAT THEIR PERVERSIONS WOULD MAKE EVEN—
STOP THIS!
STOP THIS AT ONCE! YOU ARE A MONSTER TO FILL THE CHILD'S MIND WITH SUCH FILTH!
I ONLY TELL HER WHAT SHE WILL NEED TO KNOW TO UNDERSTAND HER VOW TO THE CHURCH.

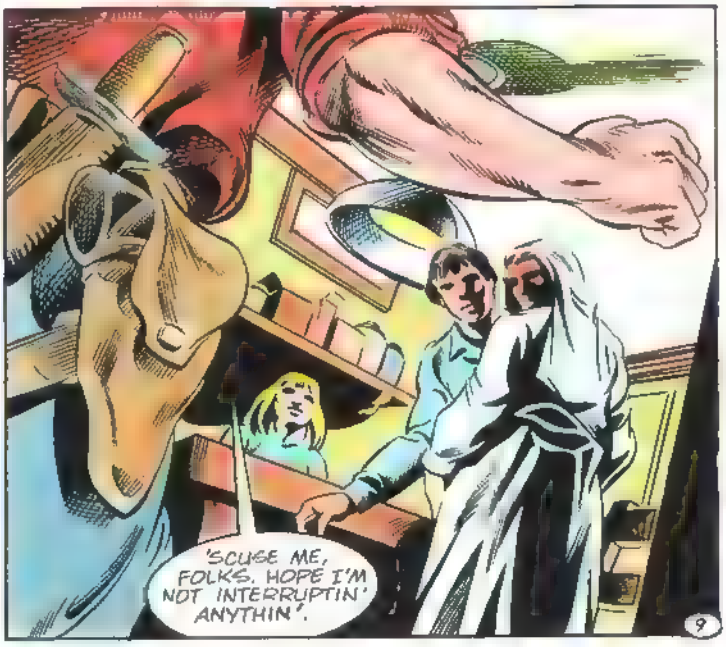

ARE YOU WILLING TO RISK THE FIRE AND PAIN OF ETERNAL DAMNATION TO SERVE GOD? DO YOU LOVE GOD ENOUGH THAT HELL'S FURY HOLDS NO FEAR FOR YOU?
YOU'RE TERRIFYING THE GIRL


SHE MUST KNOW WHAT WE DEAL WITH HERE SHE MUST KNOW THE COSTS OF HER PROMISE
I AM NOT SURE THAT THE CARDINAL WOULD APPROVE SUCH DRASTIC--

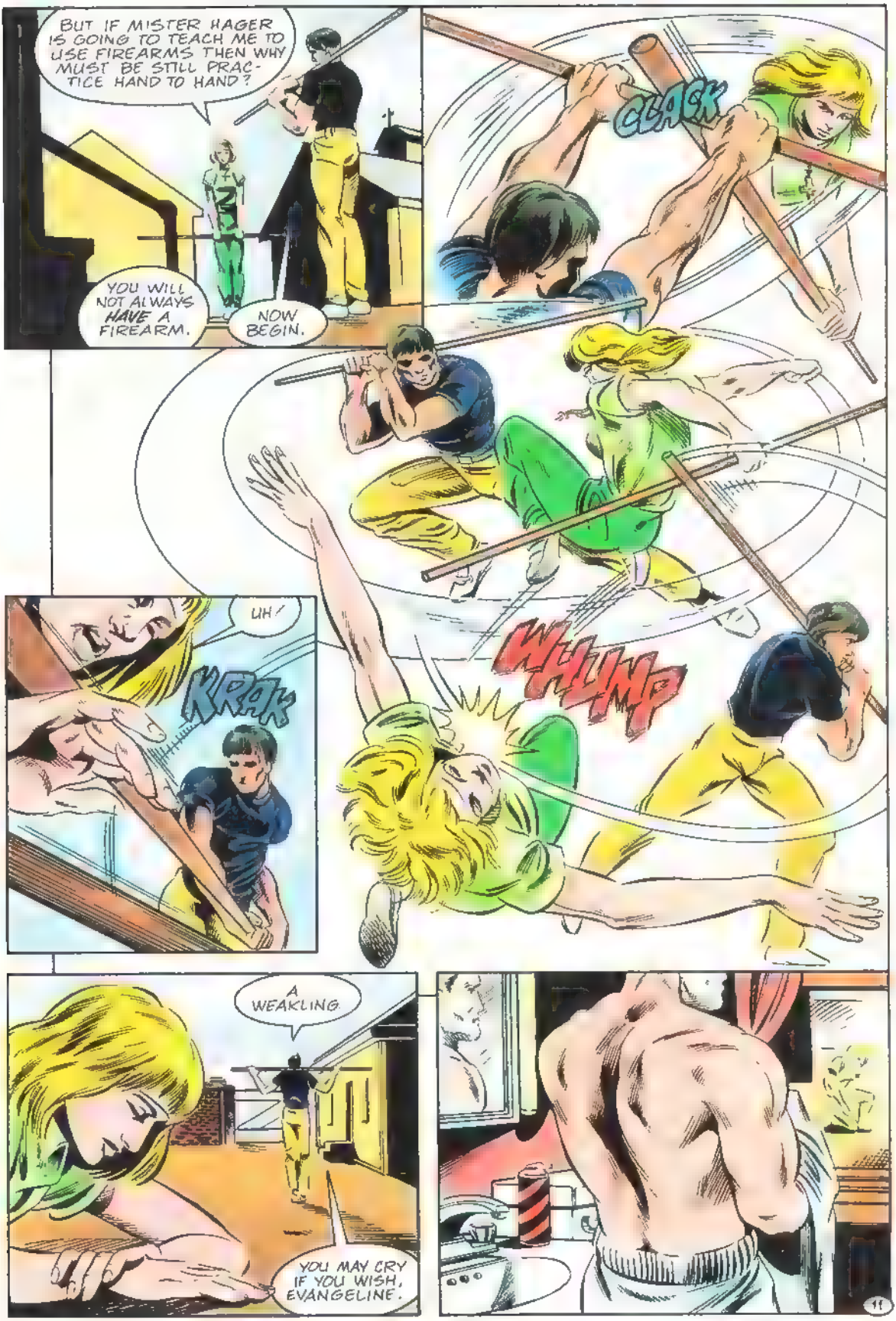
THE CARDINAL IS NOT HERE.' IT IS I WHO AM ENTRUSTED WITH THIS MISSION.' I SHALL TEACH AS I SEE FIT.'
YES

DID YOU SAY SOMETHING, EVANGELINE?
I SAID, "YES."

I AM WILLING TO FACE THE TORMENTS OF DAMNATION AND SATAN HIMSELF, IF I MUST, TO SERVE GOD AND THE CHURCH.


'SCUSE ME, FOLKS. HOPE I'M NOT INTERRUPTIN' ANYTHIN'.

NAMES' HAGER. I HONKED, BUT I GUESS YOU WERE A LITTLE INVOLVED, eh ?
I GUESS I GOT THE RIGHT PLACE 'SPECIALLY SINCE THERE AIN'T NO OTHER PLACE FOR 'BOUT A HUNDRED MILES
YOU GOT ANY WATER 'ROUND HERE, MATE ?
AND WHY ARE YOU HERE, IF I MIGHT ASK, MISTER HAGER ?
I GOT PAID A PRETTY CHUNK OF CASH TO COME OUT 'ERE AND TEACH SOMEBODY ME ART.
AND WHAT WOULD YOUR "ART" BE ?
THANKS, SISTER
DESTRUCTION, PADRE. I'M A DEMOLITIONS AND HEAVY WEAPONS EXPERT.
SO YOU GOT ANY IDEA WHO I GOT THREE MONTHS TO TURN INTO A WALKIN' ARSENAL ?
MISTER HAGER, MEET YOUR PUPIL. SAY "GOOD AFTERNOON", EVANGELINE.
GOOD AFTERNOON
HUH ?
SOMEBODY'S HAVIN' ME ON
10


BUT IF MISTER HAGER IS GOING TO TEACH ME TO USE FIREARMS THEN WHY MUST BE STILL PRACTICE HAND TO HAND?
YOU WILL NOT ALWAYS HAVE A FIREARM.
NOW BEGIN.
CLACK
WHUMP
UH!
KRAK
A WEAKLING.
YOU MAY CRY IF YOU WISH, EVANGELINE.

FIRST NOTES

ONLY 4,000 SHOPPING DAYS LEFT UNTIL CHRISTMAS 2000 A.D.!

Having spent the last week on the floor interacting meaningfully with my two daughters — aged one and zero — I got to thinking about what their lives will be like in the 21st century. After all, come the millenium they'll be in their impressionable teens, asking poignant questions like, "What's the point?" and "Who are you to tell me what to do?"

I don't imagine I'll have much time to answer them, what with working four jobs to pay the mortgage on our $3 million, two bedroom basement apartment and trying to figure out ways to be declared legally dead so my life insurance can cover the first convenient $500,000 quarterly payment of the first year's college tuition for whichever one of them can accurately answer the question, "How many fingers am I holding up behind my back?"

Best to keep your sights low when planning for the 21st century. Let's see... "economy" cars imported from Botswana will cost about $50,000; so it's a safe bet my kids won't be driving anywhere. Computers, on the other hand, will be down to about 25¢ — but they'll be so small that the only way to operate one will be to have it surgically implanted in your brain for the modest sum of $857,396.11.

Okay, what's that leave? I know! Comic books! I mean, how expensive could they be? Let's see... your average comic book six months ago cost $1.76, and now it costs... $2.44. Hmm... not too bad, I can handle that. Of course, at that rate they'll cost $49.77 a piece in the year 2000. Hey, no problem! Compared to everything else, they'll still be cheap. But what if you wanted a lot of comics? I mean, first-run movies will be up to about $150 or $200 a pop; so comics might be the only entertainment they've got... that is, of course, assuming people still *read* then.

It cost $208.50 a year ago to buy all the comics on the stands each month, and now it costs $731.44, with over twice as many new comics on the market. So at the turn of the century it will cost about... $22,056 a month.

Well, so much for comic book collecting. Maybe I should try to get them interested in wilted lettuce or something — or enroll them in a Zen Buddhist school, where they'll learn to enjoy absolute nothingness. Hmm, I wonder how much nothingness will cost in the 21st century...

MORAL: Just because it's there, doesn't mean you have to buy it. I mean, it's not exactly Mt. Everest, is it?

There are a lot of good books out there; a lot of them cost a lot more than in the past; and a lot of them are worth the price. See what's out there, and buy the ones you *like*.

Not an unreasonable suggestion, is it?

—Rick Oliver

"Just because it's there, doesn't mean you have to buy it."

FIRST IN MARCH

Lone Wolf and Cub #11: By **Kazuo Koike** and **Gosekl Kojima.** Cover and introduction by **Frank Miller.**

Badger #37: By **Mike Baron, Angel Medina** and **Rod Whigham.**

Evangeline #8: By **Chuck Dixon, John Statema** and **Jim Bauer.**

Nexus #46: By **Mike Baron** and **Steve Rude.**

Dreadstar #37: By **Jim Starlin, Luke McDonnell** and **Val Mayerik.**

Grimjack #48: By **John Ostrander** and **Tom Mandrake.**

Psychoblast #9: By **Steven Grant** amd **Robb Phipps.**

Whisper #14: By **Steven Grant** and **Spyder.**

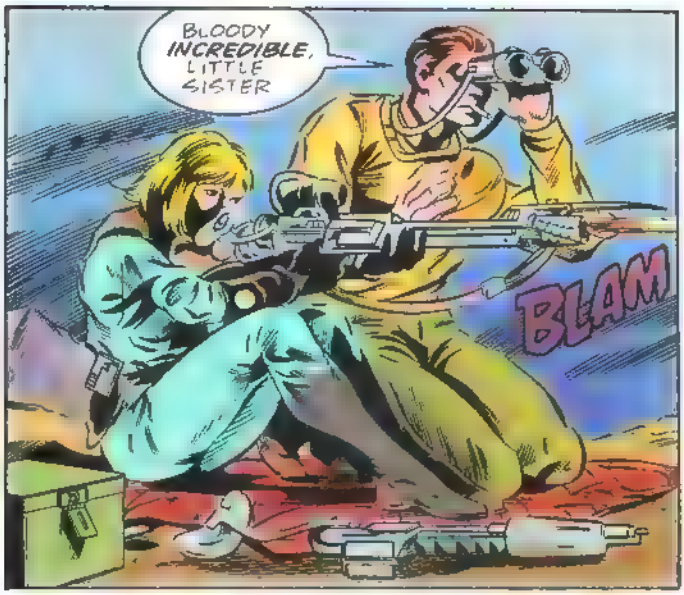
Howard Chaykin's American Flagg! #3: By **Howard Chaykin** and company

Crossroads #1: Featuring Whisper and Sable. By **Steven Grant** and **Cynthia Martin**

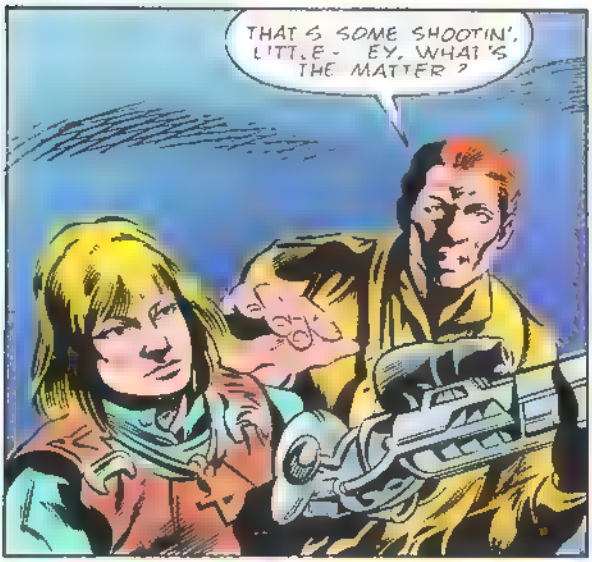
Chronicles of Corum #10. By **Mark Shainblum, Ken Hooper** and **Kelley Jones.**

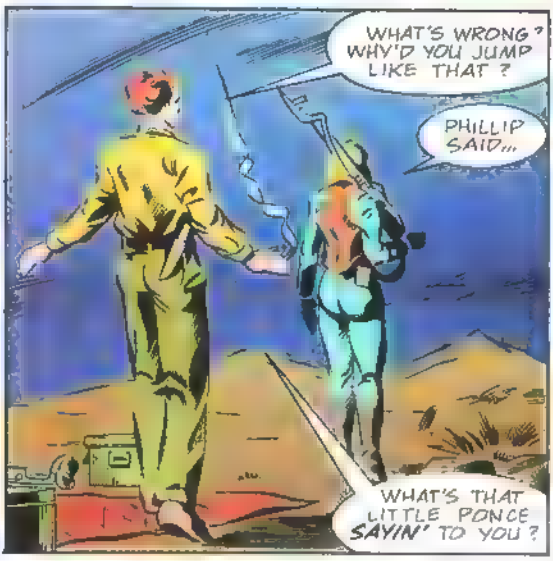
Sable #5. Special guest artist **Denys Cowan** joins writer **Marv Wolfman.**

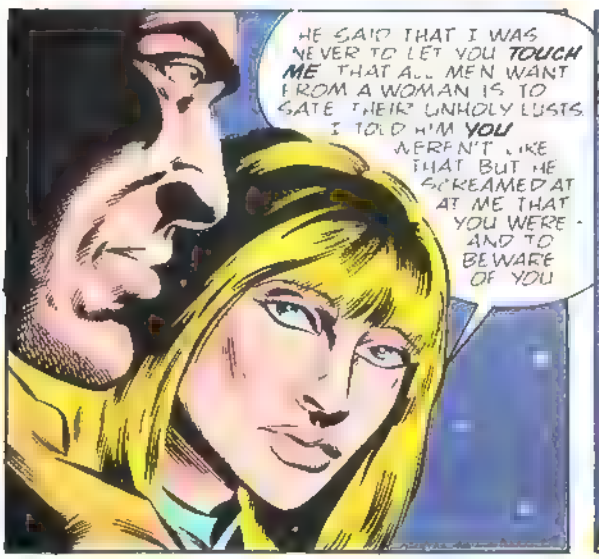
IF YOU'RE AS GOOD WITH A BOW AS YOU SAY THEN THIS SHOULDN'T BE TOO 'ARD YOU JUST LAY THE SIGHTS ON WHAT YOU WANT T' HIT'
HOLD YOUR BREATH TILL THE FRONT SIGHT IS STEADY
KEEP THE STOCK TIGHT IN YOUR SHOULDER BUT DON'T CHOKE IT
'COURSE THIS'S GOT MORE RANGE THAN A BOW YOU'LL HAVE TO WORK ON YOUR DEPTH PERCEPTION.
BRRRRPP!!
GREAT, LITTLE SISTER' DAMN, THAT'S GREAT BUT LET'S WORK ON FIRING SINGLE SHOT FOR A BIT


BLOODY INCREDIBLE, LITTLE SISTER
BLAM

THE LAST FOUR SHOTS WENT THROUGH THE SAME BLEEDIN' HOLE!
500


THAT'S SOME SHOOTIN', LITTLE- EY, WHAT'S THE MATTER?

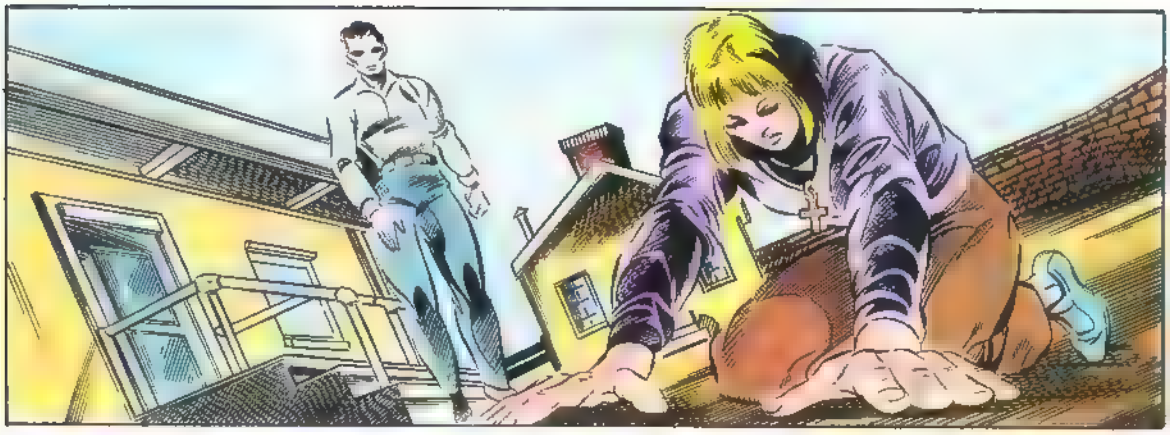

WHAT'S WRONG? WHY'D YOU JUMP LIKE THAT?
PHILLIP SAID...
WHAT'S THAT LITTLE PONCE SAYIN' TO YOU?

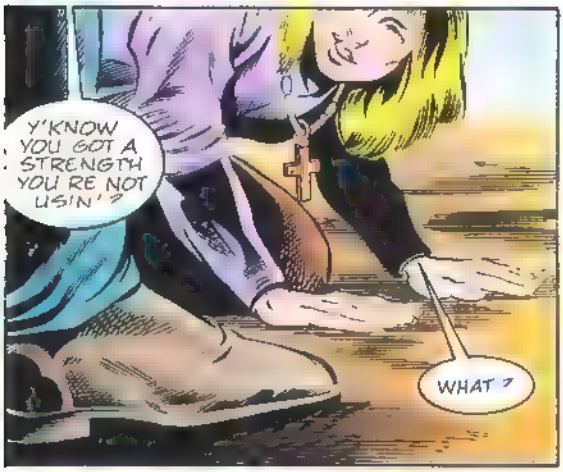

HE SAID THAT I WAS NEVER TO LET YOU TOUCH ME THAT ALL MEN WANT FROM A WOMAN IS TO SATE THEIR UNHOLY LUSTS I TOLD HIM YOU WEREN'T LIKE THAT BUT HE SCREAMED AT ME THAT YOU WERE - AND TO BEWARE OF YOU

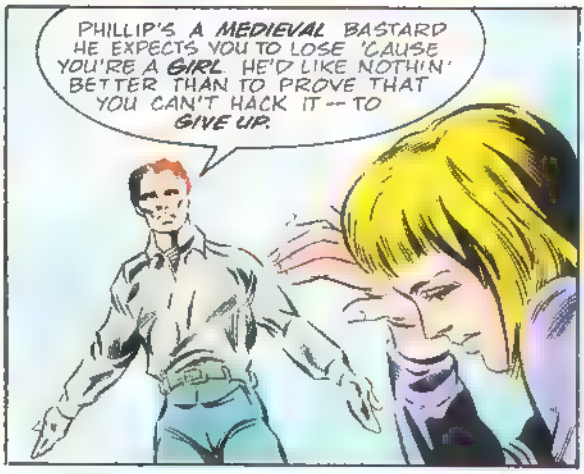
THAT PIOUS LITTLE BASTARD

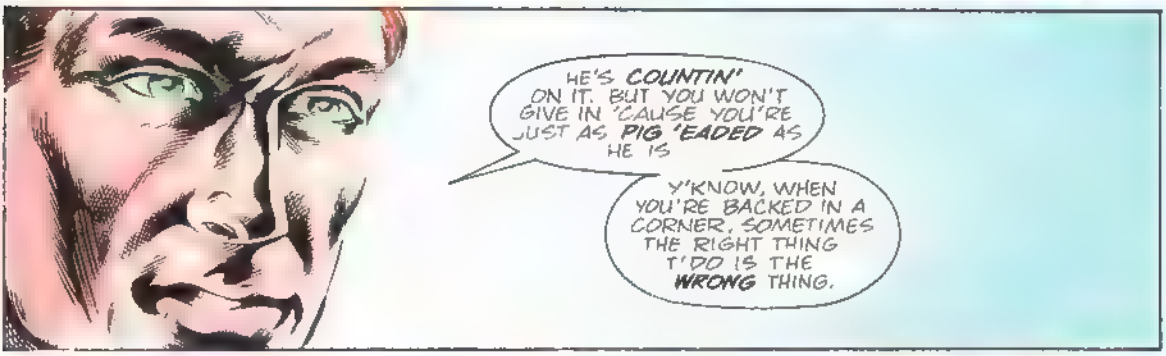
HOLYMARYMOTHER OFGODPRAYFORUS SINNERSNOWANDAT THEHOUROFOUR DEATHAILMARY
I'D LIKE A WORD WITH YOU, PADRE
WHAT THE BLOODY HELL HAVE YOU BEEN FILLIN' HER HEAD WITH ? YOU TELL HER TO STEER CLEAR OF ME 'CAUSE I MIGHT TRY SOMETHING ?
YOU'RE A MAN, AREN'T YOU ? WITH ALL THE DESIRES OF A MAN ?
NOT FOR A YOUNG GIRL THAT OUGHT TO BE ENJOYIN' HER YOUTH 'STEAD OF HIDIN' OUT IN THE DESERT LEARNIN' TO KILL PEOPLE !
YOU WANT TO TELL ME WHAT'S GOIN' ON HERE ? WHAT'S SHE BEIN' TRAINED FOR ?
I AM SWORN TO SECRECY WOULD YOU STRIKE ME TO MAKE ME SPEAK ?
I'D LOVE TO BEAT YOU SENSELESS, PHILLIP BUT YOU'D DIE BEFORE YOU'D TALK--AND YOU'D ENJOY EVERY MINUTE OF IT.
BLOODY JESUITS
15

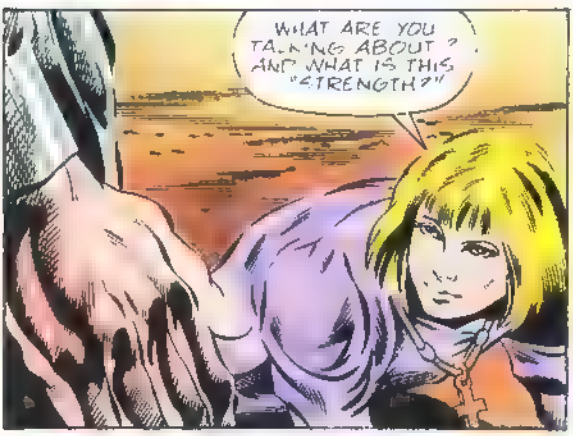
Report to Cardinal San
RE: Project Archangel
Your Excellence,
Pupil is being fully enriched with the teachings of Christ. Already an avid reader, has taken to reading original texts in Latin and ancient Greek.
Pupil is in prime physical condition. Long range running and weight training are responsible for this. Pupil shows great stamina and determination in this area.
Training in fighting skills is unsatisfactory. Pupil shows a reluctance to inflict pain showing weakness of resolve. Blame outside influences and
This training site would be ideal were it not for the intrusion of the second instructor. But even so, I do not see our pupil as being appropriate for the task.
Respectfully, I must submit that this experiment is a failure and might be tried again with a more suitable pupil.
Yours in the glorification of Christ,
PHILIP

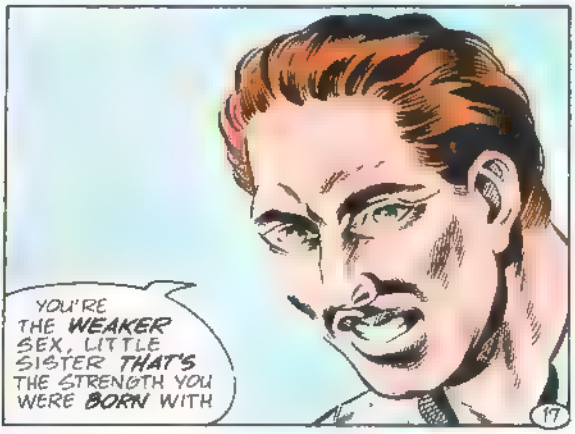



Y'KNOW YOU GOT A STRENGTH YOU RE NOT USIN'?
WHAT?


PHILLIP'S A MEDIEVAL BASTARD HE EXPECTS YOU TO LOSE 'CAUSE YOU'RE A GIRL. HE'D LIKE NOTHIN' BETTER THAN TO PROVE THAT YOU CAN'T HACK IT -- TO GIVE UP.


HE'S COUNTIN' ON IT. BUT YOU WON'T GIVE IN 'CAUSE YOU'RE JUST AS PIG 'EADED AS HE IS
Y'KNOW, WHEN YOU'RE BACKED IN A CORNER, SOMETIMES THE RIGHT THING T'DO IS THE WRONG THING.


WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT? AND WHAT IS THIS "STRENGTH?"

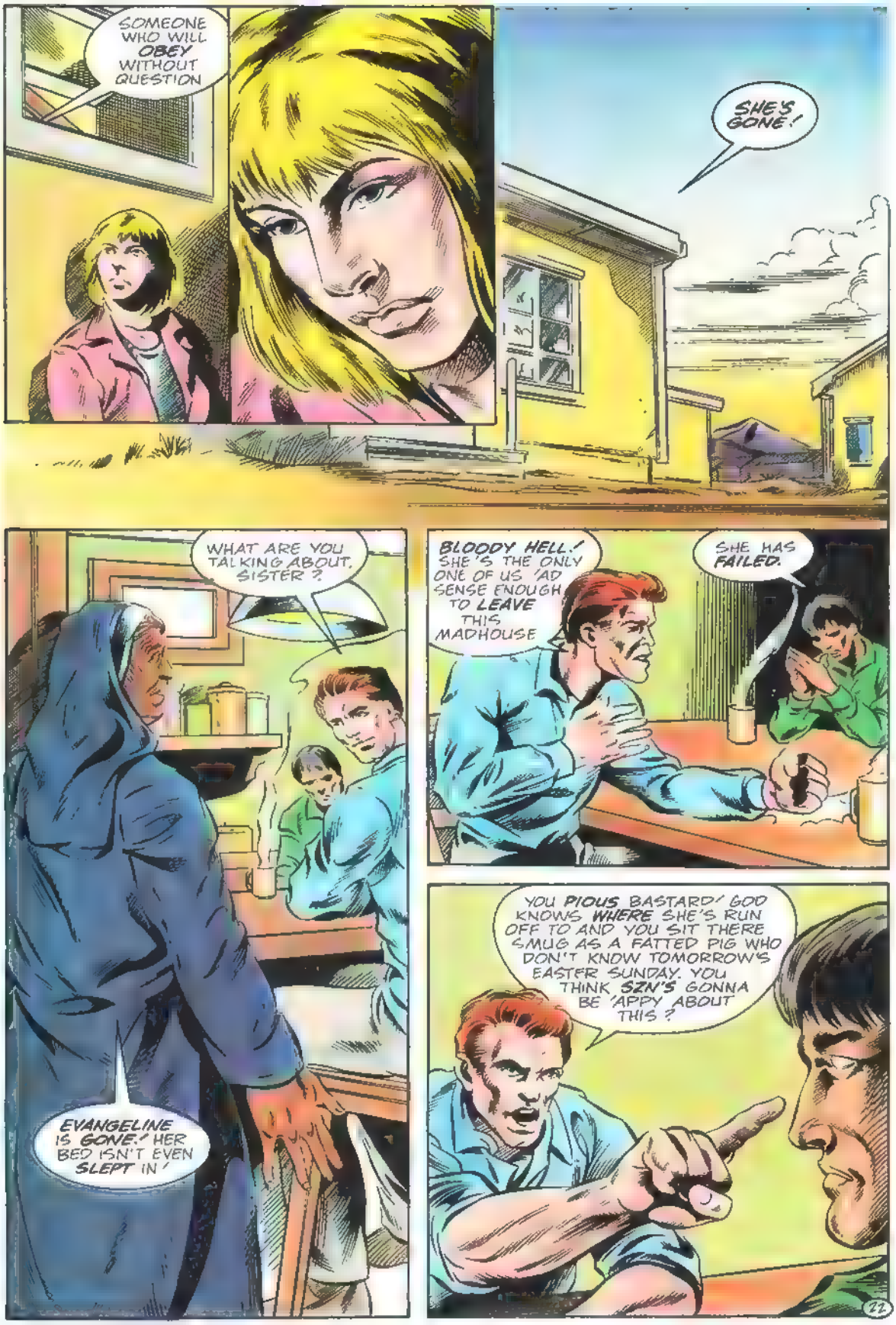

YOU'RE THE WEAKER SEX, LITTLE SISTER THAT'S THE STRENGTH YOU WERE BORN WITH

I SEE THAT YOU ARE EAGER TO BEGIN OUR LESSON
YOU SURPRISE ME I SOUNDLY DEFEATED YOU LAST EVENING AS I HAVE EVERY TIME
BUT IT ALSO PLEASES ME THAT YOU ARE SO ANXIOUS TO LEARN
YOU SHOW NEW RESOLVE EVANGELINE. I AM IMPRESSED
A SPARK OF AGGRESSION A TOUCH OF WILL
BUT NOT ENOUGH!
OH!
18

YOU LACK FAITH--IN GOD AND YOURSELF GO BACK TO THE CONVENT EVANGELINE, YOU--eh?
IS THAT SOBBING I HEAR? IF MY TEACHINGS HAVE BROKEN YOUR SPIRIT THEN YOU HAVE NOT THE STRENGTH TO SERVE THE CHURCH
YES, GIVE IN TO THE TEARS YOU ARE AN IMPERFECT VESSEL OF FAITH, EVANGELINE LIKE ALL YOUR GENDER--WEAK AND IMPURE
I WILL HELP YOU UP, EVANGELINE. TAKE MY HAND.
UNNPH!

WHAK
UFF!
THUD
UK!
(KOF! KOF!)
WAY T' GO
TT. E
L STER

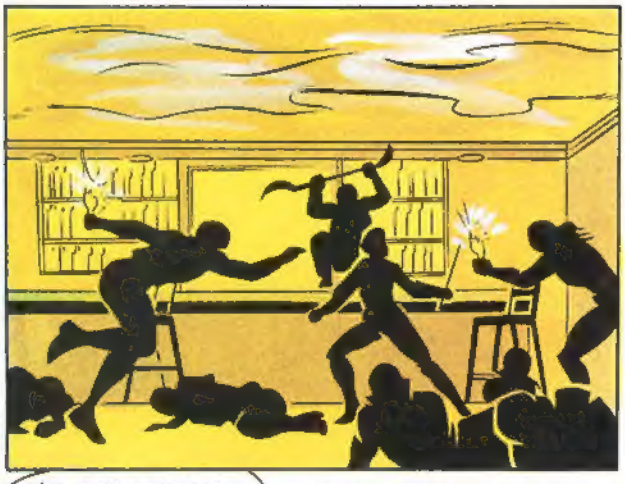
HOW WE FEELIN' THIS EVENING, PADRE?
HAVE YOU COME TO GLOAT, HAGER?
I JUST WANT SOME ANSWERS, MATE!
WHAT MAKES YOU THINK THAT YOU'RE ENTITLED TO ANSWERS?
I MAY NOT WEAR A CASSOCK, PADRE, BUT I'VE SERVED THE CHURCH FOR YEARS. I'VE RAMRODDED CATHOLIC MISSIONS IN PLACES GOD NEVER 'EARD OF. I RAN THE AIRLIFT IN DELHI AN' LED THE MONGOLS INTO MUKDEN. I GOTTA RIGHT T'KNOW WHAT'S GOIN' ON HERE!
EVANGELINE IS THE FIRST NOVICE IN A NEW ORDER - TRAINED TO SERVE THE CHURCH AS THE MILITIA CHRISTI DID IN THE MIDDLE AGES. OUR MISSION IS TO SEE THAT SHE HAS A BACKGROUND IN FIGHTING ARTS AND WEAPONRY. FROM HERE SHE'LL MOVE ON TO OTHER TRAINING
SZN'S LOST HIS BLEEDIN' MIND. WE'RE TRAININ' A GUN-TOTIN' NUN? HOW'S ALL THIS SQUARE WITH THE POPE?
THE POPE HAS NO KNOWLEDGE OF THIS VENTURE. NOR WOULD HE APPROVE IF HE DID
EVANGELINE IS TO OPERATE ALONE AS AN AGENT FOR THE VATICAN. SOMEONE TO GET THINGS DONE WHERE NORMAL MEANS FAIL
THAT'S WHAT PEOPLE LIKE ME ARE FOR
WE WANT SOMEONE INSIDE THE CHURCH
SOMEONE WHOSE FAITH RUNS DEEPER
21

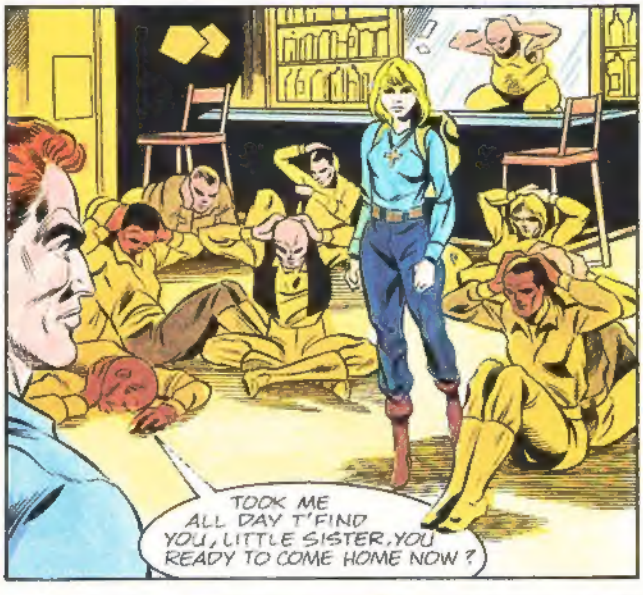

SOMEONE WHO WILL OBEY WITHOUT QUESTION
SHE'S GONE!
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT, SISTER?
EVANGELINE IS GONE! HER BED ISN'T EVEN SLEPT IN!
BLOODY HELL! SHE'S THE ONLY ONE OF US 'AD SENSE ENOUGH TO LEAVE THIS MADHOUSE
SHE HAS FAILED.
YOU PIOUS BASTARD! GOD KNOWS WHERE SHE'S RUN OFF TO AND YOU SIT THERE SMUG AS A FATTED PIG WHO DON'T KNOW TOMORROW'S EASTER SUNDAY. YOU THINK SZN'S GONNA BE 'APPY ABOUT THIS?
22

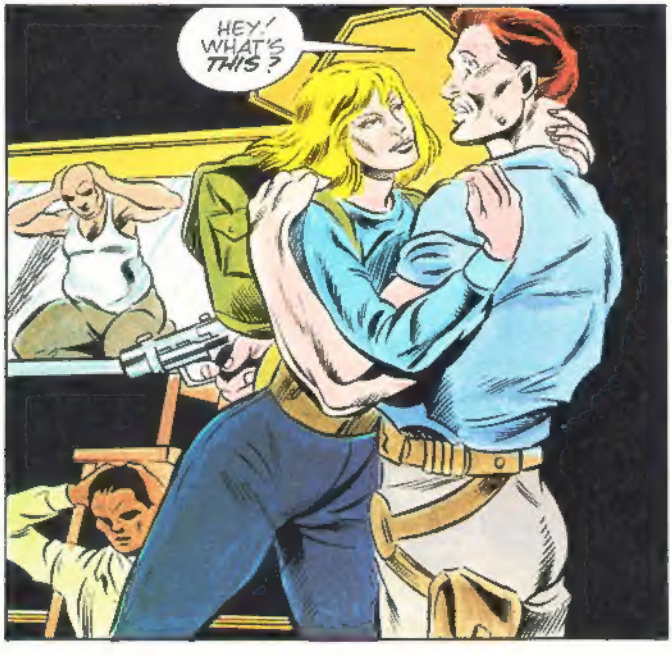
BEER
I WOULD LIKE TO BUY A BOTTLE OF WATER AND SOME FRUIT
WATER ?
WHAT HAVE WE HERE ?
23

IT IS A YELLOW HAIRED WOMAN. A RARE SIGHT, eh?
I HAVE ONLY SEEN ONE IN A MAGAZINE!
WE KNOW WHAT KIND OF MAGAZINE MUKKAH HA!
PERHAPS YOU WISH TO DRINK WITH US?
NO, THANK YOU.
"NO, THANK YOU?" SO POLITE!
PARDON ME, IF I AM NOT SO POLITE!
UUK!
UNPH!
KRAK
24

WHAP!
WHUMP
WHAP
KRAK
KRRSH
UFF!
K-KRUNCH
AAAAAAH!
WHUMP
WAK
OOF!







next: THE PILOT

The CONFESSIONAL
c/o First Comics
435 North LaSalle Chicago IL 60610

Dear Evangeline Family,

Evangeline #6, "The Resurrectors, Part One," was great. I'm anxiously awaiting part two.

I am so glad to see Evangeline still coming off the presses. It is in an elite group of quality comics.

I am happy to see that Chuck will be explaining a bit more about Evangline and how she became what se is today — actually the 23rd century.

Thanks from a satisfied customer.

Bryon Kanzinger
3767 Worthington Circle
Collegeville, PA 19426

Dear People,

In #6, when confronted by other nuns with the suggestion that a man might be possessed by the devil, Evangeline declared, "Nonsense. There is a scientific reason for this." I was a bit surprised to hear her make such a remark. It seems to me that a deeply religious person (such as Evangeline is supposed to be) believes that there *isn't* a scientific explanation for at least *some* events or situations. Now, perhaps Evangeline did not mean to issue a blanket statement but rather meant that in this particular situation she felt there must be a scientific explanation. However, she seemed to have no real basis to have decided upon a *particular* scientific explanation. In those circumstances, the disavowal of even the *possibility* of nonscientific explanations seems a bit hasty for a nun.

Of course, this remark may indicate the *type* of faith that Evangeline has, not the lack of such faith. She may believe that the devil never acts directly but only by "persuasion." (Indeed, she says later that the incident was caused by "one who does his [the devil's] work" — though even those words do not necessarily say that the devil acts independently.)

So, I am a bit puzzled by her remark. But then, she's not exactly your typical nun, is she? (And I agree with Christopher Beiting that it would be intriguing to concentrate on Evangeline's religious beliefs and conflicts more than has been done thus far.)

Otherwise, "The Resurrectors" is an interesting mystery and I look for a rollicking conclusion to it.

T.M. Maple
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Canada M9L 2R9

You've brought up an interesting point, T.M. — must a "deeply religious" person believe in miracles? And just what is a miracle, anyway? If it's an event or change that cannot currently be explained, then if ten, fifty, or two hundred years down the line we can explain it — is it still a miracle? Anybody want to tackle this one?

Dear Friends,

I've just bought Evangeline #6 and prompted by Christopher Beiting's letter thought it was about time I wrote. I agree that the weaponry could be changed to the benefit of the strip. However, there is only so much you can do with a slug thrower if you assume nobody's made the breakthroughs necessary for hand laser weapons, for instance. Judging by the cover of #7 at the end of the "Confessional" you're working on it. I should point out though that if Christopher is referring to Mykoyanoff's gun it looks like a scope sighted M16 with a M203 grenade launcher has been used as reference, not a AK47, and the US troops in #2 seem to be carrying shotguns, the rebels have the M16s. But you seem to working on it, though I'd like to see you reprint the diagrams of Evangeline's weapons in Comico's #1 that he mentions in his letter. We'll see how John Statema changes things (just as long as she still looks like Evangeline).

A potentially more serious problem involves errors in continuity. This is perhaps best explained by example: consider Brian Hager. He arrives in one helicopter to pick Evangeline up (about Siforsky S-61 size), takes off in another (about Bell Huey size), and when "Rads" starts they are flying a third (about Chinook size). None of which, incidently, could lift sixty tons of gold (then again three hundred years of helicopter development?).

That vehicle mounted heavy gun on page 13 of "Rads" was used to shoot the helicopter down, so how could it be stripped from it?

"True we are taught 'Thou shalt not kill' and so forth, but we are also enjoined to help ourselves... I see no reason why [Evangeline] may not be the instrument of that vengeance sending sinners to judgment."

Last but not least, she couldn't have been wearing that silver/white underwear at the end of #6 under the clothing she was wearing when she entered the room and she didn't have time to change judging by the conversation in the viewing room. Please, a little more care.

Now a change of subject. With regard to your answer to Glen E. Cox's letter I don't particularly want to see her recuperating as such but jumping directly from one story to another will, I think, make it difficult to develop her character. A trademark of success for me in a publication like this, is where I wait for the next edition to see what happens to the *character*, not what happens next in the story. You've done that for me, and it's mainly the small things that are doing it (though the standard of your art work, and writing of course, have a great deal to do with it, too). I'm speaking of things like the way she smiled at Jonny's bath and Bernie Miller's comments in #1, smiling at children, going back to see Cletus, naughty words when she sees Hager caught, the matching sequence above Cletus in "The Girl Upstairs."

All of these, though small things, help the art work and the writing make her human rather than just the Cardinal's killer. As I've said, to me this helps to make a comic.

Please note I'm not trying to denigrate the effects of the artwork and the writing itself.

Talking of character development, I'm reminded of Hager's comment at the end of "Rads." She is good, she really is very good, indeed, but sooner or later her luck will, I think, run out putting her in physical or moral danger. She will get hurt or possibly that vow of celibacy will be broken... by force. I wonder if you're ready for that, particularly the second case, still I've no doubt you'll handle it well if and when (if you don't duck it, though I don't think you will).

Speaking of luck running out, it'll happen quicker if she makes a habit of taking her mask off after climbing into buildings like at the start of #5 and page 12 of #6. A bit careless. I hope she wasn't trained like that in that very special school the Cardinal mentioned. I wonder if there are many other graduates? Where did you get the whole idea I wonder? I'd like to get a closer look at Catholic history and see how our enemies died.

I should perhaps mention that I am a Catholic and see no great problem in Evangeline's actions. True we are taught "Thou shalt not kill" and so forth, but we are also enjoined to help ourselves, so the Lord may say "Vengeance is mine" but I see no reason why she may not be the instrument of that vengeance sending sinners to judgement — though how the sinners are selected... Still, I suspect there are as many different opinions and beliefs about Evangeline and her actions as there are readers, something I suspect you expected.

In conclusion, in case you're wondering, I *do* like Evangeline both the comic and the lady. I don't spend this amount of time and trouble on comics and characters I don't like. Keep it up, you're doing fine, she is a multi-dimensional character. I'd just like to see a little more development of her as a character rather than from the point of view of a benefactor — like to Mando Luis Esteve or as the Cardinal's agent. This will come as the comic gets older.

Stephen Goodfellow
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Drumry, Clydebank
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NEXT ISSUE: We return to the past as Evangeline tackles her first mission. Girls have been disappearing from the streets of Europe — and Evangeline is the perfect bait. **Chuck Dixon, John Statema** and **Ricardo Villagran** bring you "The Pilot."

— Laurel Fitch